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Message Text

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44
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ADP-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

NEA-10 TRSE-00 MBFR-03 SAJ-01 RSR-01 /115 W
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R 201954 Z JUN 73
FM USMISSION NATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 549
SECDEF WASHDC
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USDOCOSOUTH
USNMR SHAPE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 2986

E. O. 11652: GDS 12-31-79
TAGS: PFOR, NATO, MOPS
SUBJECT: PROPOSAL FOR NAVOCFORMED VISIT TO TUNISIA

SUMMARY: PERMREPS AT LUNCH JUNE 19 DISCUSSED POSSIBILITY OF NAVOCFORMED PORT CALL ON TUNIS THIS AUTUMN. THERE WAS NO OPPOSITION TO PRINCIPLE OF SUCH AN ACTIVITY, ALTHOUGH SEVERAL PERMREPS CAUTIONED ABOUT NEED TO CHECK MATTER OUT WELL IN ADVANCE WITH TUNISIAN GOVERNMENT. ACTION REQUESTED: WE WOULD APPRECIATE PRELIMINARY GUIDANCE ON DESIRABILITY OF NAVOCFORMED VISIT, AND ESPECIALLY FROM POLITICAL POINT OF VIEW. FROM OUR VANTAGE, SUCH A VISIT HAS SOLID MERIT. END SUMMARY.

1. SYG LUNS RECALLED HIS EARLIER COMMENTS ABOUT THE PROSPECT THAT NAVOCFORMED WOULD PAY A CALL TO A TUNISIAN PORT IN AUTUMN 1973. HE WANTED POLITICAL VIEWS OF NATO GOVERNMENTS BEFORE THIS PROPOSAL BY NATO MILITARY AUTHORITIES HAD GONE TOO FAR FORWARD.
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2. ITALIAN CHARGE SAID HE RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS FROM ROME THAT QUESTION SHOULD FIRST BE EXAMINED ON POLITICAL LEVEL (PRESUMABLY AT DPC) TO CONSIDER POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES OF SUCH A VISIT. IF CONSENSUS SHOWS THAT

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VISIT TO TUNISIAN PORT PROMOTES NATO INTERESTS, THEN MATTER SHOULD BE RAISED WITH TUNISIAN GOVERNMENT. IF TUNISIAN GOVERNMENT AGREES TO CALL, ITALY WILL BE PREPARED TO SUPPORT VISIT.

3. DE ROSE (FRANCE WHICH NOT IN DPC AND THEREFORE WOULD NOT PARTICIPATE IN ANY DECISION ON NAVOCFORMED) COMMENTED THAT THIS SEEMED TO HIM A VERY SENSITIVE MATTER TO DISCUSS IN NATO ON A POLITICAL LEVEL BEFORE POSSIBILITY OF A VISIT HAD EVEN BEEN RAISED WITH GOT. HE CAUTIONED ON CONSEQUENCES OF ANY PRESS LEAKS, ESPECIALLY IF DPC DECISION SHOULD BE NEGATIVE.

4. BUSCH (NORWAY) WAS CONFIDENT THAT A PORT CALL TO TUNISIA WOULD GIVE HIS GOVERNMENT NO PROBLEMS. HE REGRETTED, HOWEVER, URGENCY WITH WHICH NATO MILITARY AUTHORITIES CONTINUED TO RAISE SUCH MATTERS AND ASSERTED THAT OSLO BELIEVES THE DPC SHOULD ADDRESS SUCH QUESTIONS A GOOD SIX MONTHS IN ADVANCE OF PROPOSED PORT CALLS.

5. SETTING RECORD STRAIGHT, DE STAERCKE (BELGIUM) WITH US SUPPORT RECALLED THAT DPC HAD INSTRUCTED SACEUR LONG AGO TO UNDERTAKE JUST SUCH VISITS TO NON- NATO PORTS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN. YET, WHENEVER QUESTION HAD ARISEN, DPC HAD SUCCESSIVELY VETOED PORT CALLS TO YUGOSLAVIA, TUNISIA, AND SPAIN.

6. AS AN ASIDE, LUNS NOTED THAT DURING COPENHAGEN MINISTERIAL HE HAD LEARNED THAT DENMARK WANTS STANNAVFORLANT TO VISIT BALTIC BUT THAT NETHERLANDS GOVERNMENT HAS CONSISTENTLY VETOED SUCH PROPOSALS. LUNS ASKED SPIERENBURG TO RAISE MATTER WITH THE HAGUE IN ORDER TO MEET DANISH REQUEST.
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To: STATE
SECDEF INFO LONDON
PARIS
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TUNIS
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